Read, Relax in Retirement

Relaxing in the chair given him by 300 forestry employees, Walter Henning examines book containing signatures of his fellow employees while his wife and Lands and Forests Minister Ray Williston look over his shoulder. Chair, book, a power saw and presentation ceremony conducted by Mr. Williston marked Mr. Henning's retirement from the provincial forest service after 30 years on the job.—(Colonist photo.)

Way Laid for German Talks

West Calls Reds' Hand

LONDON (CP) — The Western powers called Russia's hand in the Berlin crisis Wednesday and invited the Soviet Union to begin negotiations promptly on the whole German problem.

British, American and French ambassadors handed notes to First Deputy Foreign Minister Vassily Kuznetsov in Moscow.

Their New Year's Eve messages covered Berlin, German reunification and European security — and rejected Soviet demands that West Berlin be made a demilitarized free city.

MENACE OR ULTIMATUM

Each of the three governments said it would not negotiate under "menace or ultimatum." This referred to Russia's threat Nov. 27 to end Berlin's four-power status in six months if no agreement is reachd by that time.

Lacking an agreement, Russia would pull Soviet troops out of East Berlin and hand control of communications between West Berlin and the outside world to East Germany.

Wednesday's notes said renunciation of solemn wartime pacts, accompanied by an ultimatum, could not serve as a basis for negotiations.

But the three powers called upon Moscow to notify them "at an early date" whether Russia would be prepared to discuss Berlin "in the wider framework of negotiations for a solution of the German problem as well as that of European security."

The Western notes "presumed" Russia was not trying to serve up an ultimatum and was willing to negotiate in an atmosphere devoid of "coercion or threats."

They emphasized they could not consider any proposal jeopardizing the freedom and security of more than 2,000,000 inhabitants of West Berlin living 110 miles inside the Iron Curtain.

The U.S. note emphasized that "the three Western powers are in Berlin as occupying powers and they are not prepared to relinquish the rights which they acquired through victory."

Champ Picked To Paddle CPR's Canoes

MONTREAL (CP)—Canadian Pacific Steamships yesterday announced the appointment of Eric F. Thompson, former champion Canadian canoe paddler, as traffic manager.

Many Pay Tribute To Tom Merriman

Hayward's funeral home was crowded to the doors yesterday afternoon for the funeral of F. J. "Tom" Merriman, veteran newspaperman who died Sunday.

Detectives, high government officials and old army comrades were among those paying tribute to the kindly, soft-spoken Englishman who probably had more friends than any other Victoria reporter and city editor.

Wounded in France during the 1914-18 war, he had suffered constant pain and recurrent illness ever since. He had been in semi-retirement for some years.

Six newspapermen and ex-newspapermen were his pallbearers.

Rev. Angus Cameron conducted the service, which was followed by cremation.

Bandit Back For More

VANCOUVER (CP) — Vancouver police are seeking a Roman-nosed bandit who has held up grocery stores six times in the last 12 days.

Twice he has returned to rob stores he robbed earlier.

Tuesday night he robbed one store of $50, the same amount he took from the store Dec. 18, and was driven from another when a large watchdog was loosed by the proprietor.

JOE'S FARM MARKET
1445 HAULTAIN STREET
Prices Effective Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday
SPECIAL SAVINGS ON PRODUCE
Local Cabbage Canadian No. 1, lb. 6¢
POTATOES Local, Netted Gems, Canadian No. 1 10 lbs. 43¢
SUNKIST ORANGES Family size 3 Dozen for 85¢
Happy New Year to You, Our Many Friends and Customers
Open Seven Days a Week from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

NO MONEY DOWN
PAYMENTS TO 24 MONTHS
NO PAYMENTS 'TIL FEB.
TELMAC
SMALL CARS

The Courtroom Parade

His Joy-Ride Short Ride

A joyride was a short ride for a sailor who wound up in city police court yesterday.

Stanley Anthony Greda, RCN, pleaded guilty to taking a car without consent of the owner. Court was told that Garry Link, 658 Battery, reported his car taken from Niagara at Menzies at 9.45 p.m. Dec. 30.

At 9.50 p.m. accused was stopped in the car at Douglas and Bay.

Greda was fined $100 on this charge, and an additional $25 for driving without a driver's licence.

★ ★ ★

In the same court, Charles James McCalurg, Strathcona, B.C., pleaded guilty to possession of a stolen package.

Court was told that, at 4 a.m. Dec. 30, Edgar Stanley Oldmixon, a pensioner, reported a parcel belonging to him was missing aboard the Princess Joan on its way from Vancouver to Victoria.

At 6 a.m., a ship's officer found the parcel, valued at less than $50, in possession of the accused, on the forward sheltered deck of the ship.

McCalurg was remanded by Magistrate Henry C. Hall to Friday for sentence.

★ ★ ★

Kallman Meckeki, 2644 Rose, pleaded guilty to common assault in city court, and was fined $50.

It all started Dec. 20 with a two-car collision at Blanshard and Hillside. After this, a witness said, Meckeki got out of his car and began punching occupants of the other vehicle.

Specifically, he was charged with common assault on Ken Jay, 563 Burnside.

Long Life Of Crime All Over

LANSING, Kan. (AP) — Bill LaTrasse, onetime train robber, French Foreign Legionnaire and convicted killer, set out Tuesday to try a quiet, law-abiding life.

After spending many of his 76 years in prisons for a crime career dating from 1904, LaTrasse said:

"I'm sure happy to be free again and hope to spend the rest of my life with my sister in Denver."

The sister, Mrs. Edna Shelton, owner of several apartment houses, has promised to find Bill a job.

Found Frozen

FAIRBANKS, Alaska (AP) —The frozen body of a young Fairbanks flier, Floyd Demientieff, 25, was found Tuesday seven miles from the wreckage of his light plane 300 miles west of here.

Island Weavers Ltd.
annual sale
commences Saturday, Jan. 3rd
All regular stock greatly reduced
suits and coats from 49.50
fabrics 25% off
including
tweeds, worsteds, boucles, all hand-woven on our looms in Esquimalt.
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DOORS OPEN AGAIN 9 A.M. FRIDAY
It's a must to check the wonderful groups and outstanding bargains offered direct from Mallek's quality stock. Here is the selection, the famous names and the fantastic savings.
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On these Blin Broadcloth SUITS NOW $48
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Injury, Damage Totals Higher

Traffic Death Toll Down One But More Accidents in 1958

Greater Victoria continued during 1958 an improved record set in 1957 for traffic deaths.

Total for 1958 was 13 deaths caused by traffic accidents. Total the year before was 14—a sharp drop from the 20 recorded in 1956.

Number of accidents involving injuries, however, was higher: about 258 compared with 209 in 1957 and 230 in 1956.

Number of accidents involving property damage was also higher: about 1,087 in 1958 as against 1,002 in 1957 and 988 in 1956.

Victoria proper recorded seven traffic fatalities, Saanich and Colwood district two each, and Central Saanich and Sidney one each. There were no draffic deaths in Esquimalt or Oak Bay municipalities.

The city itself was fatality-free until June 28, when Mrs. Wah Lee, 66, of 1822½ Government, a pedestrian, was fatally injured when struck by a car on Government near Chatham.

Other city traffic victims were:

Harry V. Mills, 78, of 1403 Ryan, struck by a hit-run truck July 5 at Hillside and Cedar Hill; Mrs. Anne Pritchard, 71, of 859 Richmond, who died eight weeks after an accident involving her husband's car and another vehicle Aug. 21 at Oak Bay and Richmond.

Mrs. Isobel Louise Tautz, 73, of 3210 Douglas, a pedestrian hit by a car Oct. 9 at Douglas and Francis; Axwell Couper, 79, of 1508 Gladstone, another pedestrian, struck by a car Oct. 18 at Cook and Celedonia.

Mrs. Evelyn Maud Lundquist, 65, of 1019 Bank, a pedestrian hit by a car Nov. 10 at Oak Bay and Bank; Mrs. Emily M. Knott, 72, of 1244 Oxford, who died three hours after her car was in a three-car collision Nov. 21 at Johnson and Quadra.

The traffic victims in Saanich were pedestrian William Hopkins, 76, of 283 Helmcken, struck by a car Jan. 5 near his home, and 64-year-old gardener Lee Man, of 1907 Sooke Road, also a pedestrian, hit by a car Nov. 15 at Island Highway and Belmont.

In Saanich, James Sheard, 16-year-old high school student, of 65 Lotus, was walking home from school Feb. 13 when fatally injured on Trans-Canada Highway at Wascana by a car. Capt. William Boyce, 41, of Vancouver, a pilotage officer, was killed Aug. 21 in the crash of a car in which he was a passenger, at Trans-Canada Highway and Douglas.

Lone Central Saanich traffic fatality was Chin Yuk Chun, elderly resident of 1722½ Government, who was walking along Keating Crossroad Sept. 16 when hit by a car.

In the Sidney district, Donald Campbell, 32, of 35 Obed, died when the car he was driving hit another Sept. 26 at the Patricia Bay Highway and Lochside Drive.

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Green, 8-cyl., windshield wipers, automatic transmission, padded dash, whitewall tires, back-up lights, two-tone, radio, heater and anti-freeze. Reg. $3,930. SALE $3395
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Shirts SPECIAL! Broken lines of Shirts 1/3 Off
SPORTS COATS
Tailored in England, including the famous Harris Tweed.
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